

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:

placing a substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

covering said substrate with a plate with a distance, wherein said plate comprises an obstacle with a plurality of obstacle forming members that inhibit a part of gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and

forming ~~fine~~ textures on a surface of said substrate by using residues being chiefly composed of components of said substrate as an etching mask.

14. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said substrate is made of silicon.

15. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said plate covers said substrate while a distance of 5 mm to 30 mm is between the substrate and plate.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell, comprising:

placing a substrate on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

covering said substrate with a plate with a distance, the plate being provided with a number of opening portions, wherein said plate inhibits a part of gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and

etching the substrate by a reactive ion etching method;

wherein ~~fine~~ textures are formed on a surface of said substrate and said plate is cleaned on a surface side concurrently.

19. (Currently amended) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 20, wherein said first ~~substrate is~~ and second substrates are etched by a reactive ion etching method.

20. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:
placing a first substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

covering said first substrate with a plate with a distance, said plate being provided with a number of opening portions;

forming ~~fine~~ textures on a surface of said first substrate and cleaning said plate on a surface side concurrently,

placing a second substrate inside the chamber, with said plate positioned such that the surface side and a back surface side thereof being reversed after said plate is cleaned on the surface side, and forming textures on a surface of said second substrate.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein an opening portion is provided between neighboring obstacle forming members.

24. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 23, wherein an open area ratio of said obstacle is 5 to 40%.

25. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming members are a plurality of long members aligned with a clearance in between.

26. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 25, wherein said long member is a bar-shaped or sheet member.

27. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming member comprises a mesh woven by crossing plurality of long members over and under with each other.

28. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle comprises a plurality of obstacles of a stacked structure.

29. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 28, wherein said obstacle comprises a member formed by stacking a plurality of long members aligned with a clearance in between, in different directions.

30. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming member is made of one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from a group consisting of materials (a), (b), and (c) as follows:

(a) a glass-based material;

(b) a metal material; and

(c) a resin material.

31. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 30, wherein said metal material is an aluminum-based material.

32. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 18, wherein said plate is structured in such a manner that a surface and a back surface can be reversed.

33. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 32, wherein the surface and the back surface of said plate are of substantially a same shape.

34. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:
placing a substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

covering said substrate with a plate with a distance, said plate being provided with a number of opening portions, wherein said plate inhibits a part of a gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and

forming fine textures on a surface of said substrate by using residues being chiefly composed of components of said substrate as an etching mask.

35. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein an open area ratio of said obstacle is 5 to 40%.

36. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said substrate is made of silicon.

37. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said plate covers said substrate while a distance of 5 mm to 30 mm is between the substrate and plate.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said obstacle is made of one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from a group consisting of materials (a), (b), and (c) as follows:

(a) a glass-based material;

(b) a metal material; and

(c) a resin material.

40. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 39, wherein said metal material is an aluminum-based material.

41. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said substrate is etched by a reactive ion etching method.